TITLE OF THE STUDY – MEDICATION ERROR TYPES AND FREQUENCY IN A TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL

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INTRODUCTION
Medication errors directly impact lives of the patients which has become an increasing concern among healthcare professionals.

OBJECTIVE
Aim of this study was to identify and classify the medication errors so as to draw attention of the concerned staff to the occurrence and prevention of these errors.

METHODOLOGY
A cross sectional observational study was conducted for a period of 7 months for the In-patients of a tertiary care hospital. The In-patient clinical records were randomly selected and reviewed. Medication Error Reporting forms were used for documentation purpose.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
A total of 3324 files were audited, out of which 355 medication errors were identified. The prevalence of medication error was found to be 10.7%. Based on total population who experienced medication errors, 69% were males and 31% were females with mean age of 53 ± 18.4. Out of the total medication errors observed, most common was Transcription errors (26%) followed by administration error (19%).The least occurring error was drug indenting error (5%) because of computerization of indenting process. Majority of medication errors were related to Antimicrobial agents (25%), which was followed by CVS agents (22%). WhereasCorticosteroids (2%), Haematological agents (2%) and NSAIDs (1%) accounted for a small portion of medication errors.

CONCLUSION
This study helps to find the incidence of medication errors and to categorize them. Thus it enables healthcare professionals to identifyand provide selective attention to thoseareas of drug therapy that accounts for majority of medication errors. This concludes that medication error reporting plays a major role in improving patient safety. Since majority of errors were related to Antimicrobial agents, the study endorses strict adherence to antibiotic policy.

KEYWORDS –
Drug therapy
Medication errors
Clinical Pharmacists